

THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

County History

We got started on Marlinton school history, then came the opera house, and this week we have some more recollections.

One of the Bicentennial Committee's projects is to bring Pocahontas County history up to date. We ask that every community gather together what history has been written and bring it up to date. We will print it in parts as you seek to get it or when it is finished.

This is a history of Marlinton printed in the Pocahontas Times in 1923.

First Things in Marlinton

The first settler was Ja-

house

Moffe

lifetin

Stand

India

ter w

The f

colleg

the la

A.B.,

born i

depar

the ag

The

title w

a gre

land

survey

Gen.

land is

as bein

Ewings

name

first kn

not be m

Gen. Ar

the bee

it or when it is finished.

This is a history of Marlinton printed in the Pocahontas Times in 1923.

First Things in Marlinton

The first settler was Jacob Marlin, and from him the town got its name. He was here in 1749, and nobody knows how much earlier. The place was first called Marlings Bottom. Changed in 1887 to Marlinton at the request of a Mrs. Skyles who moved here from Baltimore and who objected to the word Bottom as not being a nice word. The old timers were horrified when they found that the name had been changed on them over night, so to speak, but the damage was done, and all appeals to Congress failed to undo the harm. The lady soon afterwards moved away but she left us christened with a new name.

Gen. And
land is men
as being
Ewings C
name Kna
first known
not be made
Gen. Andre
the heart o
1751 to
thirty year
was a grea
Revolution
George V
his fidus A
early days
life, there
that this
most famil

The first
established
Marlinton,
few weeks
tas Bank, w
became the

The first
The Times.
was opened
son in a ho
pied as a c
stands direct
entrance of

horrified when they found that the name had been changed on them overnight, so to speak, but the damage was done, and all appeals to Congress failed to undo the harm. The lady soon afterwards moved away but she left us christened with a new name. About twenty years ago the town almost unanimously petitioned Washington to change the name to McGraw. This change of name was refused because there was a postoffice in West Virginia by the name of McGraws. And so the name continues to be Marlinton, and it would be a bold bad citizen who would suggest a change of name now that a large and important town has developed under it, and has succeeded in acquiring more "good will" than any of the impor-

Marlin
few we
tas Bar
becam

The
The Ti
was op
son in
pied a
stands
entranc
the we

The
kind es
combin
carding
A. Pric
war and
in the l
slough
leading
just opp
A. C. P

It wa
power, a
from Sto
to augm
water fr
River fr

of McGraws. And so the name continues to be Marlinton, and it would be a bold bad citizen who would suggest a change of name now that a large and important town has developed under it, and has succeeded in acquiring more "good will" than any of the important centers of West Virginia.

The first court that I know of being held here was under an oak tree on the west side of the river above the bridge by Squire G. M. Kee. The first lawyer I ever heard plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder, a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. And he was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic, who is still with us, and who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in June or October, 1893. The

in the low slough along leading to just opposite A. C. Pifer

It was power, and from Stony to augment water from River from below the Creek failed itself was the flood of the highest there is no record.

This mill a man by James E. was a man class, and a living for large family main room older people family was they had staying. It came that

G.M. Kee. The first lawyer I ever heard plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder, a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. And he was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic, who is still with us, and who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in June or October, 1893. The election to move the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton was held in the fall of 1891, and a building at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street was erected which is still called the Temporary Court house. The judge was Judge A. N. Campbell, of

ord.
This mill
a man by
James E.
was a ma
class, and
a living fo
large fam
main reme
older peop
family was
they had
starving. It
time that
ing on hi
sewing ma
ioned a wo
of wood fro
which deve
the chain
machine,
him to the c
inventor of
lock stitch

Complete Banking Facilities

MBS Monroe county. He was a great lawyer. He was of commanding appearance. Over six feet tall, with a heavy black beard. He weighed three hundred and fifteen pounds.

ES The first sheriff of the county lived here, Major William Poage. His house was near Eleventh Street on Camden Avenue. In this house was born James A. Moffett, who was in his lifetime the president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. The first postmaster was James Ataly Price. The first student to go to college from this place was the late Rev. Wm. T. Price, A.B., A.M., D.D., who was

tised so
lier, bu
the inv
tion of b
the sew
people
the Gil
the lock
differen
ried h
north
nership
the na
the m
machin
turned
broke
starved
end of
back
found
ing out
a grea

born here in 1800, and who departed this life here at the age of ninety-one years.

The first recorded land title was 480 acres taking in a great part of the level land which dates from a survey made in 1751, by Gen. Andrew Lewis. This land is mentioned in his will as being at the mouth of Ewings Creek, by which name Knapps Creek was first known. Too much cannot be made of this fact that Gen. Andrew Lewis owned the heart of this town from 1751 to his death some thirty years afterwards. He was a great general of the Revolutionary War, and George Washington was his fidus Achates. In those

his fidus Achates. In those early days of Washington's life, there can be no doubt that this was one of his most familiar haunts.

The first bank to be established was the Bank of Marlinton, followed in a few weeks by the Pocahontas Bank, which afterwards became the First National.

The first newspaper was The Times. The first store was opened by J. R. Apperson in a house now occupied as a dwelling which stands directly opposite the entrance of the bridge on the west side of the river.

The first business of any kind established here was a combined sawmill and carding mill built by James

entrance of the bridge on the west side of the river.

The first business of any kind established here was a combined sawmill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil war and which was located in the low place called the slough along the boulevard leading to Campbelltown, just opposite the home of A. C. Pifer.

It was run by water power, and the water came from Stony Creek. An effort to augment this power by water from the Greenbrier River from an intake just below the mouth of Stony Creek failed, and the plant itself was washed away in the flood of 1877, which is the highest water of which

The
there i
ord wa
cabin t
side.
session
private
must
school
one of
Creek
called
Mead
ies, th
Hunte
ies, th
having
one r
was p
where
Stewa
Emm
Geo. V
Super
Mathe

held here
ak tree on
the river
by Squire
rst lawyer
d in Mar-
Snyder, a
o lived in
d he was
by L. M.
still with
just start-
sional ca-

n of the
s held in
1893. The
he county
ersville to
eld in the
a building
of Fourth
th Street
ch is still
rary Court
dge was
mpbell, of

the flood of 1877, which is
the highest water of which
there is any authentic rec-
ord.

This mill was in charge of
a man by the name of
James E. A. Gibbs, who
was a man of the tenant
class, and who barely made
a living for himself and a
large family. In fact the
main remembrance that the
older people had of the
family was the struggle that
they had to keep from
starving. It was during this
time that Gibbs was work-
ing on his model for a
sewing machine. He fash-
ioned a working model out
of wood from a laurel root,
which developed the idea of
the chain stitch sewing
machine, which entitles
him to the claim of being an
inventor of first order. The
lock stitch idea was adver-

Superi
Mather
Squire
Rhode
the n
taught
house
a two
standi
buildi
Knapp
was
school
tial b
come
mente
school
great
eight
school
many
there
when
half wa
ever
ment

tised some few years earlier, but it did not entitle the inventor to the distinction of being the inventor of the sewing machine, for the people of this vicinity know the Gibbs' idea antedated the lock stitch, and was on a different idea. Gibbs carried his invention to the north and formed a partnership with a mechanic by the name of Wilcox, and the manufacture of the machines began. Gibbs returned home, the Civil war broke out, the Gibbs family starved almost and at the end of five years Gibbs got back to Delaware, and found that Wilcox was turn-

ed a s
was r
origin
anec
Bu
first
to t
whe
berl
dush
nine
com
mod
jail,
exp
any
suff
robl
had
stro
ed
cou

back to Delaware, and found that Wilcox was turning out sewing machines at a great rate, and that the share of Gibbs had been put to his credit regularly in a bank, and from that time Gibbs was rich. In the nineties Gibbs came back for several visits. He was a very tall man—about six feet and seven inches, I think, wore a silk hat, and had the biggest nose that I ever saw on a human being. He said at that time he had taken out some one hundred and sixty three patents. The Wilcox & Gibbs sewing machine is still one of the standard machines offered

taken out some one hundred and sixty three patents. The Wilcox & Gibbs sewing machine is still one of the standard machines offered to the public, and I believe it is considered the very best for heavy sewing, such as leather. I am not sure about this.

One of the earliest stores was opened by Paul Golden who is still with us though not in the mercantile business. A sign that he had painted on the store in his early days caused some hilarity among the nations in the world. It read: "Go no farther to be Cheated." The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has at

no farther to be Cheated." The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has the right to be grouped under the head of Commercial Candor.

The first school of which there is any authentic record was opened in a log cabin that stood near Riverside. It closed after a session or two. It was a private enterprise. There must have been some school earlier than that for one of the fields on Stony Creek has always been called the School House Meadow. Up to the eighties, the nearest school was Huntersville. In the eight-

mer
one
that
peri
trav
nigh
way
ther
tow
all
gre
net
we
cov
Cha
The
Cre
Ma
to
we
pro
S

...d the
...evard
...town.
...ne of
...water
...came
...effort
...er by
...brier
...just
...Stony
...plant
...ay in
...ch is
...which
...rec-
...ge of
...e of
...who
...nant
...made
...nd a

school earlier than that for one of the fields on Stony Creek has always been called the School House Meadow. Up to the eighties, the nearest school was Huntersville. In the eighties, the free school system having been established, a one room frame building was put up on the Price Run where the house of William Stewart now stands. Miss Emma Warwick, Judge Geo. W. McClintic, County Superintendent, W. M. Mathews, Rev. Dr. Price, Squire Charles Cook, from Rhode Island, were some of the noted persons who taught in that little school house. The next school was a two room building, still standing, as the Ira Irvine

Cree
Man
to a
wer
pre
S
ers
den
city
only
kno
bui
the
Mc
see
this
ove
or
sur
M.
tha
dea
sub

who
nant
made
nd a
the
the
the
that
from
this
work-
or a
fash-
el out
root,
lea of
ewing
titles
ng an
The
adver-

taught in that little school house. The next school was a two room building, still standing, as the Ira Irvine building on the banks of Knapps Creek. The next was the present graded school building, a substantial brick, which has become too small though augmented by a still finer high school property. We had a great time building that eight roomed brick graded school, and there were many that predicted that there never would be a time when there was need of one half such a building. In fact even in that comparative recent time, it was very

M.
tha
de
su
wi
bu
an
th
in
wh
no
St
bo
sa
dr
to
do
an
be
dr
po

school building.

The first teacher's institute was held in 1886 in the Presbyterian Church. The first church built was the Presbyterian church on the site of the present building. The first resident judge of the court, Judge S. H. Sharp. The first mayor of the town, Andrew Price. The first state senator, N. C. McNeil. The first Presidential Elector, Col. O. H. Kee. The first delegate to the legislature, L. M. Mc Clintic. The first member of the county court, Dr. N. R. Price. The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive at Marlinton was in the year 1900, on the completion of this

the county court, Dr. N. R. Price. The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive at Marlinton was in the year 1900, on the completion of the track laying to this point. It was made a public ceremony and some thousands gathered here and they barbecued beef and had a celebration. They told at Ronceverte that night that when the train got here that the great crowd gathered around the locomotive, and that the engineer requested them to give him room to turn his train around and that they cleared a space of some acres. It was not true. Not even an original lie. Only a localized anecdote.

But for excitement over first events let me refer you

Letter to
Parents
County.

Do you
helpful to
grandchild
ogy was
school? M
of program
put in. B
ton, Coor
Accredita
attempt i
we, the pa
somethi

ears ear-
t entitle
e distinc-
mentor of
, for the
ity know
ntedated
was on a
obs car-
to the
a part-
anic by
ox, and
of the
bbs re-
ivil war
family
at the
bbs got
, and
as turn-
ines at
hat the
d been
arly in

around and that they clear-
ed a space of some acres. It
was not true. Not even an
original lie. Only a localized
anecdote.

But for excitement over
first events let me refer you
to the first jail delivery,
when Armstrong and Cum-
berland got out of jail at
dusk one evening in the
nineties. The jail had been
completed and it was the
modern idea of a strong
jail, and it was confidently
expected that it would hold
anybody. The county had
suffered a series of bold
robberies, and suspicion
had attached to Alex Arm-
strong, an intelligent color-
ed man, a native of this
county, who had removed
to an Ohio town. It was
thought that he raided this
county regularly, and that
he would come to an

school.
of program
put in. Bu
ton, Coord
Accreditat
attempt i
we, the pa
something
counties
Kanawha



★
We rese
Prices g

WE
FE
FOO

at the
bbs got
and
s turn-
ines at
at the
been
arly in
at time
n the
back
was a
ut six
hes. I
at, and
e that I
being.
he had
a hund-
patents
sewing
of the
offered
believe
very
such

had attached to Alex Arm-
strong, an intelligent color-
ed man, a native of this
county, who had removed
to an Ohio town. It was
thought that he raided this
county regularly, and that
he would come to the
nearest railroad station,
and make a quick trip into
the county and return with
his booty. This belief was
so sure that the authorities
waited and watched for him
to return, and he showed
up one winter day wear-
ing incognito with a dis-
burly strange negro. R. I.
Burns arrested them and
they were indicted and
afterwards convicted of the
robbery of Capt. A. M.
Edgar, held up at the point
of a revolver in his own
house after nightfall.

They killed the other man

we res
prices

WE
F
FO

AL

F

H

being.
he had
hund-
tents.
ewing
of the
ffered
lieve
very
such
sure

ling incognito with a
burly strange negro. K
Burns arrested them
they were indicted
afterwards convicted of
robbery of Capt. A. M.
Edgar, held up at the point
of a revolver in his own
house after midnight.

They lulled the public into
a sense of security and
when they got between him
and the door of the cage,
they shut the door and left
and got away. A large force
of volunteers assembled in
an hour or so and patrolled
the roads all night, and
found nothing. But the
elements warred against
the fugitives. It was sum-
mer time, but the night saw
one of the heaviest rainfalls
that this country ever ex-
perienced. The accused
travelled many miles that

PE
HA



l: "Go
ated."
se and
nstruc-
as the
under
mercial

which
c rec-
a log
River-
er a
was a
There
some
at for
Stony
been
House
eight-
ol was
eight-
system
hed, a
ilding

the fugitives. It was sum-
mer time, but the night saw
one of the heaviest rainfalls
that this country ever ex-
perienced. The accused
travelled many miles that
night but they lost their
way and daylight found
them about two miles from
town. They had wandered
all night, confused by the
great tempest and the
network of streams. They
were exhausted. They took
cover in the old Hamlin
Chapel, on Stony Creek.
They got as far as Laurel
Creek about ten miles from
Marlinton and surrendered
to a volunteer posse and
were brought in. They were
pretty well starved.

Some of us old resident-
ers have never had a resi-
dence in any oth-

to a
were brought in. They were
pretty well starved.

Some of us old residents have never had a residence in any other town or city. And we feel that the only way that you can really know a town is to see it built. With the exception of the toll house and the McLaughlin house, I have seen every house built in this town. If I have not overlooked some odd house or two in a hasty mental survey, Yes a part of the B. M. Yeager house is older than that. That is a good deal to say for a town as substantial as Marlinton, with its court-house, bank buildings, school buildings, and churches. Especially the Methodist church now in the course of erection

M. Yeager house is older than that. That is a good deal to say for a town as substantial as Marlinton, with its court-house, bank buildings, school buildings, and churches. Especially the Methodist church now in the course of erection which will be one of the notable buildings of the State.

I often think of one of my boy friends many years ago saying that he had had a dream. That he seemed on top of Elk Mountain looking down over Marlins Bottom, and the bottom appeared to be roofed over. That is one dream that has come to pass.